

First records of Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis* for southern Africa, with notes on identification of *Buteo* buzzards in the subregion

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Premières mentions de la Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* pour l'Afrique australe, avec des notes sur l'identification de buses *Buteo* dans la sous-region. Les six premières mentions de la Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* pour l'Afrique australe sont présentées. Trois observations ont été faites en Namibie, deux au Botswana, et la sixième en Afrique du Sud ; toutes étaient dans le grand bassin du Kalahari. Quatre observations concernaient des juvéniles et ont eu lieu dans la seconde moitié de la période sèche de l'hiver austral (juillet–août). Les deux autres concernaient des adultes ou subadultes et ont été effectuées dans la seconde moitié de la saison des pluies de l'été austral (janvier–mars). Les oiseaux ont été observés en cinq années différentes (2001, 2009, 2011, 2014 et 2015), suggérant un vagabondage régulier des populations nichant plus au nord. Nous présentons les caractères de plumage qui faciliteront la séparation de juvéniles de la Buse d'Afrique d'autres buses en Afrique australe (Buse forestière *B. trizonatus*, Buse des steppes *B. buteo vulpinus*, Buse augure *B. augur* et Buse rounoir *B. rufofuscus*).

Summary. We present the first six records of Red-necked Buzzards *Buteo auguralis* for southern Africa: three from Namibia, two from Botswana and one from South Africa, and all are from the greater Kalahari Basin. Four records were of juveniles and occurred during the mid- to late austral winter dry period (July–August). The other two records were adults or near-adults and occurred during the mid- to late austral summer wet season (January–March). Birds were seen in five different years (2001, 2009, 2011, 2014, 2015), suggesting regular vagrancy from breeding populations further north. We present plumage characters that will facilitate future separation of juvenile Red-necked Buzzards from Forest *B. trizonatus*, Steppe *B. buteo vulpinus*, Augur *B. augur* and Jackal Buzzards *B. rufofuscus* in southern Africa.

Many *Buteo* species are very similar in general appearance to one another. In addition, intra-specific variation in plumage colours and patterns within most, if not all, *Buteo* species are notoriously bewildering and are occasionally so marked as to carry the labels of discrete 'morphs'. This variability is further compounded by typically subtle but distinct differences in plumages and other features (e.g. eye colour) in juveniles. It is little wonder that *Buteo* buzzards frequently present serious field identification challenges, although morphometric and plumage characters generally prove useful to discriminate taxa (e.g. Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001, Clark 2007).

The following seven *Buteo* taxa regularly occur on the African mainland: Long-legged *Buteo rufinus*, Red-necked *B. auguralis*, Forest *B. trizonatus*, Mountain *B. oreophilus*, Common *B. buteo*, Augur *B. augur* and Jackal Buzzards *B. rufofuscus* (Kruckenhauser *et al.* 2004, Clark 2007). The race *vulpinus* of Common Buzzard, 'Steppe Buzzard', is the most widespread taxon of this species in Africa, where it is a non-breeding Palearctic migrant. The taxon *vulpinus*

has been considered worthy of elevation to specific status (e.g. Hockey *et al.* 2005) but is treated as a subspecies here following Dickinson & Remsen (2013). Augur and Jackal Buzzards, and Mountain and Forest Buzzards, have been considered conspecific (e.g. Brown *et al.* 1982) but are now widely accepted as separate species (e.g. Dickinson & Remsen 2013).

Four *Buteo* species, Forest, Steppe, Augur and Jackal Buzzards, occur commonly in southern Africa, defined here as the geographic subregion south of the Zambezi and Cunene rivers, and including Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland and southern Mozambique (Hockey *et al.* 2005). Long-legged Buzzard has been claimed as a rare vagrant to southern Africa, but its presence remains controversial and requires confirmation (Dowsett & Kemp 1988, Hockey *et al.* 2005). All of the many photographs of alleged Long-legged Buzzards from the subregion were judged to be juvenile Jackal Buzzards (WSC pers. obs.).

Forest Buzzard is endemic to southern Africa and is a partial migrant found in temperate coastal

forests and clearings of South Africa, moving north as far as the Drakensberg escarpment during the non-breeding season. Steppe Buzzard is a common Palearctic non-breeding visitor to southern Africa, with some occasionally remaining in South Africa during the southern winter. Confusion exists concerning the status of those buzzards observed year-round on the Cape Peninsula, some matching the description of Steppe Buzzard, others displaying intermediate characters between Steppe and Forest Buzzard (Clark 2009a). Augur Buzzard is sedentary in northern parts of southern Africa. It occurs fairly widely in Zimbabwe, Namibia and parts of Mozambique, and has been claimed from extreme north-east South Africa (e.g. Kemp 1974). There are five previously confirmed records for Botswana (P. Hancock *in litt.* 2015), while Fig. 16 presented here documents a sixth. Jackal Buzzard is endemic to southern Africa, occurring largely to the south of the range of Augur Buzzard and is generally sedentary, although juveniles are dispersive over wide areas, frequenting a greater variety of habitats, from lowlands to (mainly) hills.

No published records of Red-necked Buzzard exist for southern Africa. This intra-African or partial migrant of West and Central Africa occurs from the Sahel south to the equatorial forest zone and north-west Angola, the southernmost part of the distribution range, where populations are apparently rather sedentary (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001). This paper presents details of the first six records of Red-necked Buzzard for southern Africa, including one previously identified as a Forest Buzzard. We commence by discussing the key identification features under most field conditions differentiating juveniles of Red-necked Buzzard from the four common *Buteo* species occurring in southern Africa, particularly as relevant to these six records, all of which are supported by photographic evidence. We focus primarily on juveniles, as the key identification problems are typically associated with this age group.

Separation of juvenile *Buteo* buzzards in southern Africa

All juvenile buzzards have brown upperparts edged rufous-buff, variably marked whitish to creamy or rufous underparts, and brown tails with narrow dark bands. They also have yellow ceres, yellowish, greyish-brown to (pale) brown eyes,

and yellow legs. Eye colour of adults is dark brown in all five buzzard species covered here.

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*

Similar in size and shape to Forest and Steppe Buzzards. It is noticeably sligher and longer tailed in appearance than Augur and Jackal Buzzards, although to some extent it shares the broad-winged appearance of those two species in flight. The head and nape are variably tinged rufous in both adults



Figure 1. Juvenile Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*, Cameroon, June 2009 (Ralph Buij). The pale eye, white throat and upper chest, and buff edges to the upperpart feathers are all indicative of a juvenile, while the rufous cast to the head and neck, uniformly dark secondaries, streaking restricted to flanks and belly, and lack of narrow pale supercilium and dark stripe behind the eye are all useful identification features.

Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* juvénile, Cameroun, juin 2009 (Ralph Buij). L'œil pâle, la gorge et le haut de la poitrine blanche, et les lisérés chamois des plumes des parties supérieures indiquent qu'il s'agit d'un juvénile, tandis que la coloration roussâtre de la tête et du cou, les rémiges secondaires uniformément sombres, les stries confinées aux flancs et au ventre, et l'absence d'un étroit sourcil pâle et d'un trait foncé derrière l'œil sont des caractères complémentaires utiles à l'identification.



Figure 2. Juvenile Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*, Cameroon, August 2008 (Ralph Buij). The dark carpal arcs stand out, median coverts are pale (shared with Forest Buzzard *B. trizonatus*), greater coverts form a darker line, and note rufous cast to tail, lower chest and unmarked leg feathers.

Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* juvénile, Cameroun, août 2008 (Ralph Buij). Les virgules carpaux sombres tranchent sur le fond clair, les couvertures sous-alaires moyennes sont pâles (comme chez la Buse forestière *B. trizonatus*), les grandes couvertures forment une ligne sombre, et la queue, et le bas de la poitrine et la culotte unie sont teintés de roux.



Figure 3. Juvenile Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*, Cameroon, August 2007 (Ralph Buij). Note blotches on breast-sides and flanks, drop-like streaks on underparts, which are more whitish than buff, plus dark carpal arcs, dark markings restricted to lesser and greater coverts, and indistinctly barred flight feathers.

Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* juvénile, Cameroun, août 2007 (Ralph Buij). Noter les taches sur les cotés, les stries en forme de gouttes sur les parties inférieures, qui sont blanchâtres plutôt que chamois, ainsi que les virgules carpaux sombres, les marques sombres confinées aux petites et grandes couvertures sous-alaires, et les rémiges faiblement barrées.



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Figure 4. Juvenile Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*, Cameroon, August 2008 (Ralph Buij). Note dark carpal arcs, unmarked median coverts and dark line formed by greater coverts.

Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* juvénile, Cameroun, août 2008 (Ralph Buij). Noter les virgules carpales sombres, les couvertures sous-alaires moyennes unies et la ligne sombre sur les grandes couvertures.



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Figure 5. Juvenile Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*, Cameroon, June 2010 (Ralph Buij). A rather heavily marked individual, with pale band formed by unmarked median coverts, narrow dark band on greater coverts, and rufous cast to head and tail.

Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* juvénile, Cameroun, juin 2010 (Ralph Buij). Un individu assez bien marqué, avec les couvertures sous-alaires moyennes unies formant une bande claire, la bande sombre sur les grandes couvertures, et la tête et la queue teintées de roux.

and juveniles. Red-necked Buzzards inhabit forest edge, woodland (including plantations), savanna and farmland.

The head and nape of juveniles are rather uniformly brown with a rufous cast, lacking a strong pale supercilium and dark stripe behind the eye (Figs. 1–6). The brown upperpart feathers are edged rufous-buff. Thighs, vent and undertail-coverts are unmarked, unlike in most juvenile Forest Buzzards, while the underparts from throat to belly have a variable number of blotches and drop-like streaks. A patch of dark markings on the lower chest is evident in most. The tail has narrow, evenly spaced, darker brown bars throughout and the uppertail is rufous or shows a variable rufous cast (its visibility on the undertail depends on light conditions), often more clearly so than in juvenile Forest Buzzard. The darker secondaries above contrast with a paler primary window. In flight from below, the cream to pale buff underwings are variably marked (sometimes entirely unmarked) but always show a strongly contrasting well-defined dark carpal arc. The median underwing-coverts often lack dark markings, forming a pale band contrasting with a dark line of dark-tipped greater coverts and variably streaked lesser coverts (features shared



Figure 6. Juvenile Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*, Cameroon, July 2009 (Ralph Buij). Typical juvenile with rufous tail and a pale primary window.

Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* juvénile, Cameroun, juillet 2009 (Ralph Buij). Juvénile typique avec la queue rousse et la fenêtre pâle sur les rémiges primaires.

with Forest Buzzard). Indistinct banding on the underside of the flight feathers is more typical of juvenile Red-necked Buzzard than other juvenile buzzards. Worn juvenile Red-necked Buzzards lose the buff edges to the upperparts and become whiter and less heavily marked below, and moult directly into adult plumage.

Forest Buzzard *Buteo trizonatus*

Inhabits Afromontane forests and associated alien plantations of eastern and southern South Africa. Adults and juveniles are fairly similar in appearance and both are brown above. This species can show some barring on the underparts, but never as much as the typical adult, but not juvenile, Steppe Buzzard.



Figure 7. Juvenile Forest Buzzard *Buteo trizonatus*, South Africa, September 2013 (Crystelle Wilson). Note the narrow pale supercilium, bold dark stripe behind the eye, lack of rufous tinge to the head and pale band across lower chest, with brown markings above and below.

Buse forestière *Buteo trizonatus* juvénile, Afrique du Sud, septembre 2013 (Crystelle Wilson). Noter l'étroit sourcil pâle, le trait foncé derrière l'œil, l'absence de teinte rousse sur la tête et la bande claire sur le bas de la poitrine, entourée de brun.



Figure 8. Juvenile Forest Buzzard *Buteo trizonatus*, South Africa, August 2001 (Bill Clark). The dark carpal arc is less well defined compared to Red-necked Buzzard *B. auguralis*, and the lightly streaked lesser coverts of this pale individual are similar to juvenile Red-necked Buzzard; however, the dark band across the posterior underparts with the contrasting white band above is typical of Forest Buzzard.

Buse forestière *Buteo trizonatus* juvénile, Afrique du Sud, août 2001 (Bill Clark). Les virgules carpales sombres sont moins bien définies que chez la Buse d'Afrique *B. auguralis*, les petites couvertures faiblement striées de cet individu pâle ressemblent à celles de la Buse d'Afrique juvénile, mais la bande sombre sur le bas des parties inférieures contrastant avec la bande blanche au dessus sont caractéristiques de la Buse forestière.

Figure 9. Juvenile Forest Buzzard *Buteo trizonatus*, South Africa, September 1998 (Bill Clark). The dark carpal arc and lightly streaked lesser coverts are similar to many juvenile Red-necked Buzzards *B. auguralis*, while the barring on the secondaries is more distinct than in the latter. Note also the narrow pale supercilium, the bold dark stripe behind the eye and the lack of rufous tinge to the head.

Buse forestière *Buteo trizonatus* juvénile, Afrique du Sud, septembre 1998 (Bill Clark). La virgule carpal sombre et les petites couvertures faiblement striées ressemblent à beaucoup de Buses d'Afrique *B. auguralis* juvéniles, mais les barres sur les rémiges secondaires sont plus marquées que chez ces dernières. Noter aussi l'étroit sourcil pâle, le trait foncé derrière l'œil et l'absence de teinte rousse sur la tête.





Figure 10. Juvenile Forest Buzzard *Buteo trizonatus*, South Africa, August 2001 (Bill Clark). Note the pale primaries contrasting with the dark unmarked secondaries, the lack of rufous coloration, the narrow pale supercilium and the bold dark stripe behind the eye.

Buse forestière *Buteo trizonatus* juvénile, Afrique du Sud, août 2001 (Bill Clark). Noter les rémiges primaires pâles contrastant avec les secondaires foncées unies, l'absence de coloration rousse, l'étroit sourcil pâle et le trait foncé derrière l'œil.

The brown head of juveniles shows a narrow pale supercilium and a bold dark stripe behind the eye (Figs. 7–10). The juvenile is often less heavily marked on the underparts, including the underwing-coverts, than the adult but still has drop-shaped streaks on the breast, flanks and usually, but not always, thighs. These markings often form a pale band across the lower breast, not seen on juvenile Red-necked Buzzards, which typically show the opposite, i.e. a dark band of markings across the lower breast. The shape of the underparts markings are more in the form of streaks rather than blotches. The tail is evenly barred throughout and lacks the broader subterminal band of the adult. The underwings are pale and variably marked, with a dark carpal arc and lightly to densely streaked lesser coverts; the carpal arc is less well defined than in juvenile Red-necked Buzzard and the underwing is rarely as unmarked as in some Red-necked. The median underwing-coverts often lack dark markings, forming a pale band contrasting with a dark line of dark-tipped greater coverts and variably streaked lesser coverts. The secondaries are narrowly banded below, but appear uniformly dark above.

Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

The most widespread of the four buzzard species commonly found in southern Africa. It occurs in a wide range of habitats from the interior of forests and plantations to open grassland, but is least common in the most arid parts of the subregion. Both adults and juveniles are



Figure 11. A very pale, worn juvenile Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*, South Africa, January 2014 (Crystelle Wilson). Note more attenuated shape, lack of obvious narrow pale supercilium and bold dark stripe behind the eye, and narrower underpart markings compared to Forest Buzzard *B. trizonatus*; like Forest Buzzard, but unlike Red-necked Buzzard *B. auguralis*, it lacks a rufous tinge to the head and the thighs are marked.

Buse des steppes *Buteo buteo vulpinus* juvénile au plumage très pâle et usé, Afrique du Sud, janvier 2014 (Crystelle Wilson). Noter la silhouette plus élancée, l'absence d'un étroit sourcil pâle et d'un trait foncé derrière l'œil, et les stries sur les parties inférieures plus étroites que chez la Buse forestière *B. trizonatus*; comme chez la Buse forestière, mais contrairement à la Buse d'Afrique *B. auguralis*, la tête n'est pas teintée de roux et les cuisses sont tachetées.

Figure 12. Pale juvenile Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*, South Africa, December 2009 (David Allan). Note relatively long- and narrow-winged appearance, indistinct carpal patch, broad dark band on trailing edges to wings, and dark leg feathers.

Buse des steppes *Buteo buteo vulpinus* juvénile pâle, Afrique du Sud, décembre 2009 (David Allan). Noter les ailes relativement longues et étroites, les taches carpales indistinctes, le large bord postérieur sombre aux ailes, et les plumes des pattes sombres.

Figure 13. Pale juvenile Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*, Israel, April 1988 (Bill Clark). Note indistinct carpal patch and broad dark band on trailing edge to wing.

Buse des steppes *Buteo buteo vulpinus* juvénile pâle, Israël, avril 1988 (Bill Clark). Noter la tache carpale indistincte et le large bord de fuite sombre.



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Figure 14. Juvenile Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*, Israel, March 2009 (Bill Clark). A pale brown individual lacking rufous coloration, and note slender build, pale primaries and darker secondaries.

Buse des steppes *Buteo buteo vulpinus* juvénile, Israël, mars 2009 (Bill Clark). Un individu brun pâle sans coloration rousse ; noter la stature élancée, les rémiges primaires pâles et les secondaires plus sombres.

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brown above and look fairly similar. The brown plumage throughout typically has a rufous tinge, a characteristic of race *vulpinus*, although some individuals are more plain dark brown. Some adult and juvenile Steppe Buzzards are somewhat similar to their Forest Buzzard counterparts, with some paler juvenile Steppe Buzzards in particular being similar in plumage to the closely related Forest Buzzard. As a non-breeding migrant from the Palearctic, Steppe Buzzard is typically only present in southern Africa in October–April; ‘over-wintering’ birds are present but uncommon to rare outside this period.

The underparts, including underwing-coverts, of juvenile Steppe Buzzards are white with extensive, even streaking throughout and are very similar to juvenile Forest Buzzards (Figs. 11–14). As with juvenile Forest Buzzard, the tail is evenly barred throughout and lacks the broader subterminal band of the adult. Underwings show indistinct carpal patches with pale, streaked median coverts. Secondaries appear uniformly dark above. They usually show mostly or all-dark tibial feathers and broad, adult-like bands on the tips of the remiges.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

Augur Buzzard and Jackal Buzzard differ from the other three species considered here in their larger size and bulkier, thickset appearance, being up to 1.5–2.0 times heavier and larger. Their heads appear particularly large and their tails noticeably short (although the latter feature is less evident in juveniles): When perched the wingtips of both species extend beyond the tip of the tail, unlike in the other three. In flight, both show particularly broad wings with more bulging trailing edges, longer ‘hands’ and noticeably shorter tails, although again these features are not as obvious in juveniles.

Juvenile Augur Buzzards (Figs. 15–17) usually differ from typical juvenile Jackal Buzzards in that the underparts, including the underwing-coverts, are pale buff to whitish, not rufous, although the rufous coloration of many juvenile Jackal Buzzards fades to buff, even whitish, over time. The throat and breast-sides typically have dark streaks, and these markings sometimes extend to the flanks, posterior underparts and thighs. Especially in fresh juvenile Jackal Buzzards, such dark markings are less obvious set against the typically rufous underparts. In flight from below, the dark carpal



Figure 15. Juvenile Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*, Masai Mara, Kenya, 11 September 2013 (Mike Haworth).

Much larger than Steppe *B. buteo vulpinus*, Forest *B. trizonatus* or Red-necked Buzzards *B. auguralis*, with dark chin, distinctly barred secondaries and lack of rufous cast to head and tail.

Buse augure *Buteo augur* juvénile, Masai Mara, Kenya, 11 septembre 2013 (Mike Haworth). Plus grande que les Buses des steppes *B. buteo vulpinus*, forestière *B. trizonatus* et d'Afrique *B. auguralis*, avec le menton sombre, les rémiges secondaires clairement barrées, et la tête et la queue dépourvues de teinte rousse.

Figure 16. Juvenile Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*, near Chobe River, Botswana, June 2011 (Mike Bayman). The pale underwings with dark carpal arcs appear similar to Red-necked Buzzard *B. auguralis*, which rarely has such unmarked underwings. Augur Buzzard always shows a longer, more tapered hand, more bulging trailing edge to the wing, and shorter tail than smaller *Buteo* species. This is only the sixth record for Botswana.

Buse augure *Buteo augur* juvénile, près de la rivière Chobe, Botswana, juin 2011 (Mike Bayman). Le dessous de l'aile pâle avec la zone carpale sombre ressemble à celle de la Buse d'Afrique *B. auguralis*, mais cette dernière a rarement le dessous de l'aile aussi uni. La Buse augure a la main plus longue et plus effilée, le bord postérieur de l'aile plus saillant et la queue plus courte que les espèces de *Buteo* plus petites. Ceci n'est que la sixième mention pour le Botswana.





Figure 17. Juvenile Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*, moulting to second plumage, Kenya, September 1999 (Bill Clark). Note distinctly barred secondaries, pale primaries and lack of a rufous cast to head and tail.

Buse augure *Buteo augur* juvénile en train d'acquérir son deuxième plumage, Kenya, septembre 1999 (Bill Clark). Noter les rémiges secondaires clairement barrées, les primaires pâles, et la tête et la queue dépourvues de teint roux.

arcs on pale wings in the juvenile Augur stand out, similar to juvenile Red-necked, but the latter has less distinct bands on the flight feathers. In flight from above, the upperwings show greyish-brown barred secondaries that contrast with both the uniform darker greater upperwing-coverts and the paler primaries.

Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus*

Juveniles are brown on the head and upperparts (Figs. 18–21). The underparts, including the underwing-coverts, are distinctively plain rufous, a critical identification feature. However, this colour typically fades to buff in older juveniles, sometimes in an uneven mosaic fashion but often last on the thighs and undertail-coverts. The tail is brown, with a rufous cast when fresh, and has narrow, evenly spaced darker brown bars throughout. In flight from below, the remiges are faintly barred with a fairly distinct dark trailing edge. Juvenile Jackal Buzzard resembles juvenile Augur Buzzard, but has heavily marked rather than unmarked underwing-coverts and is darker and more uniformly rufous, or buff, below with



Figure 18. Typical fairly fresh juvenile Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus*, South Africa, 1 May 2015 (Neil Ebedes). Note largely plain rufous underparts.

Buse rounoir *Buteo rufofuscus* juvénile typique au plumage assez frais, Afrique du Sud, 1 mai 2015 (Neil Ebedes). Noter le dessous en grande partie roux uni.



Figure 19. Typical fairly fresh juvenile Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus*, South Africa, January 2010 (Jessie Walton). Note largely plain rufous underparts, rufous underwing-coverts with some darker markings including fairly extensive but indistinct carpal arcs, and pale and indistinctly barred flight feathers with strongly contrasting dark trailing edge to the wing.

Buse rounoir *Buteo rufofuscus* juvénile typique au plumage assez frais, Afrique du Sud, janvier 2010 (Jessie Walton). Noter le dessous en grande partie roux uni, les couvertures sous-alaires rousses avec quelques taches plus sombres y compris des arcs carpaux assez étendus mais indistincts, et les rémiges pâles et faiblement barrées avec un bord de fuite sombre fortement contrastant.

Figure 20. Older, more faded juvenile Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus*, South Africa, June 2008 (Bill Clark). Note broad-winged, short-tailed appearance, darker head, indistinct markings on flight feathers, pale buffy underparts, and heavily marked underwing-coverts with more extensive carpal arcs.

Buse rounoir *Buteo rufofuscus* juvénile plus âgée au plumage plus terne, Afrique du Sud, juin 2008 (Bill Clark). Noter les ailes larges, la queue courte, la tête plus sombre, les rémiges faiblement barrées, les parties inférieures chamois pâle, les couvertures sous-alaires tachetées et les arcs carpaux assez étendus.

Figure 21. Juvenile Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus*, moulting into second plumage, South Africa, September 1998 (Bill Clark). Upperparts similar to Augur Buzzard *B. augur*, with pale, clearly barred secondaries and pale primary window contrasting with dark coverts.

Buse rounoir *Buteo rufofuscus* juvénile en train d'acquérir son deuxième plumage, Afrique du Sud, septembre 1998 (Bill Clark). Le dessus est comme celui de la Buse augure *B. augur*, avec les rémiges secondaires pâles et clairement barrées et la fenêtre pâle des primaires contrastant avec les couvertures sombres.

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less obvious carpal arcs and less distinctly barred secondaries and tail. The upperparts resemble those of juvenile Augur.

Records of Red-necked Buzzards in southern Africa, including a re-assessment of an earlier published South African *Buteo* record

The recent records of Red-necked Buzzard in southern Africa are listed in Table 1. These prompted us to re-assess a record from August 2001, previously published by one of us (Clark 2009b), of a putative Forest Buzzard in Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in north-western South Africa, well outside the species' normal range and habitat. The bird was identified as a pale juvenile Forest Buzzard, as the only other possible candidates considered then were Jackal, Augur and Steppe Buzzards. We re-examined the three photographs of the Kgalagadi buzzard published in Clark (2009b), two of which are reproduced here as Figs. 27–28, and compared them to photographs of pale juvenile Forest Buzzards in the hand, perched and in flight (Figs. 7–10), and of juvenile Red-necked (Figs. 1–6, 23–25).

Although there is some overlap in characters, we believe that various features point to the Kgalagadi bird being a juvenile Red-necked Buzzard. Specifically, the head shows a slight rufous cast and lacks a narrow pale supercilium and dark stripe behind the eye. The lack of noticeable banding on the underside of the remiges and the pale underwing with dark carpal arc are also

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Figure 22. Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*, Ngepi Camp, western Caprivi, Namibia, 8 March 2009 (Rolf Wiesler). This individual has almost completely moulted into adult plumage (note dark eye and adult tail), with white underparts and dark breast, spotting on belly and flanks typical of adult plumage. Note juvenile p10 and a few retained juvenile secondaries that differ from dark-tipped adult remiges.

Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis*, Ngepi Camp, Caprivi de l'ouest, Namibie, 8 mars 2009 (Rolf Wiesler). Cet individu a presque entièrement acquis le plumage adulte, avec le dessous blanc et la poitrine sombre, et les taches sur le ventre et les flancs typiques de l'adulte (noter aussi l'œil sombre et la queue adulte) ; p10 est encore juvénile ainsi que quelques rémiges secondaires qui diffèrent des rémiges adultes au bout sombre.

Table 1. Records of Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis* in southern Africa.
Tableau 1. Mentions de la Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* en Afrique australe.

Age	Date & Time	Locality	Country	Coordinates	Habitat	Observer	Figures
Juvenile	August 2001	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park	South Africa	Not available	Tall acacias along river course	WSC	27–28
Adult	10.25 hrs, 8 March 2009	Ngepi Camp	Namibia	Not available	Not available	Grahame Snow, Karin & Rolf Wiesler, et al.	22
Juvenile	11.17 hrs, 11 August 2012	Mahango Game Reserve, Bwabwata National Park	Namibia	18°20'S 21°739'E	Open floodplain of Kavango River with acacias and baobabs	Doug Hayman	23
Juvenile	c.10.30 hrs, 11 July 2014	Chobe National Park	Botswana	17°83'S 25°113'E	Open forest along Chobe River	Peter Roberts, Peter McCalmont, et al.	24
Juvenile	c.10.00 hrs, 28 July 2014	Buffalo Core Area, Bwabwata National Park	Namibia	18°06'S 21°403'E	Mature broad-leaved (teak) woodland	Etienne Marais et al.	25
Adult	2 January 2015	Kasane Forest Reserve	Botswana	Not available	Not available	Ian White	26



Figure 23. Juvenile Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*, Mahango Game Reserve (Bwabwata National Park), Namibia, 11 August 2012 (Doug Hayman). Note rufous cast to the head-sides, unmarked whitish underparts and plain dark upperparts typical of worn juveniles, as well as the lack of narrow pale supercilium and dark stripe behind the eye.

Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* juvénile, Mahango Game Reserve (Parc National de Bwabwata), Namibie, 11 août 2012 (Doug Hayman). Noter les côtés de la tête teintés de roux, le dessous blanchâtre sans taches et le dessus sombre uni typiques de juvéniles au plumage usé, ainsi que l'absence d'un sourcil pâle et d'un trait foncé derrière l'œil.



Figure 24. Juvenile Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis* moulting into adult plumage, Chobe National Park, Botswana, 11 July 2014 (Peter McCalmont). Note rufous cast to the head-sides, uniform dark head and upperparts without buff edges, whiter underparts, and heavier markings on the chest compared to juveniles.

Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* juvénile en train d'acquies le plumage adulte, Parc National de Chobe, Botswana, 11 juillet 2014 (Peter McCalmont). Noter les côtés de la tête teintés de roux, la tête et les parties supérieures sombres sans lisérés chamois, ainsi que le dessous plus blanc et la poitrine plus fortement tachetée que chez les juvéniles plus jeunes.



Figure 25. Juvenile Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*, Buffalo Core Area (Bwabwata National Park), Namibia, 28 July 2014 (Etienne Marais). A typical juvenile with rufous cast to the head-sides, plain dark secondaries, blotching on breast and flanks, and rufous cast to uppertail, but no narrow pale supercilium and dark stripe behind the eye.

Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* juvénile, Buffalo Core Area (Parc National de Bwabwata), Namibie, 28 juillet 2014 (Etienne Marais). Un juvénile typique avec les côtés de la tête teintés de roux, les rémiges secondaires uniformément sombres, la poitrine et les flancs tachetés, et le dessus de la queue nuancé de roux, mais sans sourcil pâle ni trait foncé derrière l'œil.

Figure 26. Adult Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*, Kasane Forest Reserve, Botswana, 2 January 2015 (Ian White). Note dark eye and plain brown throat and upper breast.

Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* adulte, Forêt classée de Kasane, Botswana, 2 janvier 2015 (Ian White). Noter l'œil sombre et la gorge et le haut de la poitrine uniformément bruns.





Figure 27. Juvenile Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, South Africa, August 2001 (Bill Clark). This individual has a brownish head with a slight rufous cast, lacks a narrow pale supercilium and dark stripe behind the eye, and shows a band of dark markings across the lower chest with the upper chest, belly and leggings unmarked—the opposite of the typical pattern in juvenile Forest Buzzard *B. trizonatus*. As discussed in the text, it was originally identified as a pale extreme of juvenile Forest Buzzard.

Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* juvénile, Parc Transfrontalier Kgalagadi, Afrique du Sud, août 2001 (Bill Clark). Cet individu a la tête brunâtre légèrement teintée de roux sans sourcil pâle ni trait foncé derrière l'œil, le dessous blanc avec une bande de taches sombres sur le bas de la poitrine, avec le haut de la poitrine, le ventre et les culottes sans taches—le contraire du pattern typique d'un juvénile de la Buse forestière *B. trizonatus*. L'oiseau avait initialement été identifié comme une Buse forestière juvénile extrêmement pâle.



Figure 28. Juvenile Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, South Africa, August 2001 (Bill Clark). No markings on whitish underwing-coverts or leg feathers, while the undersides to the secondaries show no dark banding.

Buse d'Afrique *Buteo auguralis* juvénile, Parc Transfrontalier Kgalagadi, Afrique du Sud, août 2001 (Bill Clark). Noter l'absence de taches sur les couvertures sous-alaires et les plumes des pattes blanchâtres, et il n'y a pas de barres sombres sur le dessous des rémiges secondaires.

more typical of Red-necked than Forest Buzzard. Additionally, almost all juvenile Forest Buzzards have dark leg markings; these are entirely absent on the Kgalagadi bird. Finally, the pattern of centrally placed drop-like streaks on the lower chest is typical of many juvenile Red-necked but is not seen in Forest Buzzard, which in contrast tends to show a pale, unmarked band across the lower chest with darker marking above and below.

Re-identification of the Kgalagadi bird as a juvenile Red-necked Buzzard makes it chronologically the first for the subregion; it is also by far the southernmost record, and the first and only one for South Africa. The timing of the record lies outside the period of normal occurrence of Steppe Buzzards in the subregion (Harrison *et al.* 1997). In addition, the location lies c.800 km south of the northern Namibia and northern Botswana regions from which the recent Red-necked Buzzard records have come, and c.900 km from the regular range of Forest Buzzard to the south and east.

Discussion

These six records represent the first Red-necked Buzzards for southern Africa: Namibia ($n = 3$), Botswana ($n = 2$) and South Africa ($n = 1$). The birds were all seen in the Kalahari Basin and in five different years (2001, 2009, 2011, 2014, 2015), and thus do not represent a single influx but rather suggest regular vagrancy from breeding populations further north. Red-necked Buzzards apparently display few seasonal movements in the nearby forested parts of their breeding range (Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, western Democratic Republic of Congo, to north-west Angola), whereas populations further north migrate c.700–1,000 km twice each year. Breeding by these northern populations occurs during the dry season (November–April; Buij & Croes 2014, Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2014), after which the vast majority moves into the Sahel during the wet season (from May). Populations migrate south again after the rains, to Guinea savannas and the rainforest zone (in September–November; Thiollay 1977). In the central African rainforests south to Angola, breeding occurs from October (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001), or earlier (August; Buij 2008), thus dispersal of juveniles can be expected during the Kalahari austral wet season, from November.

The new southern African records included four worn juveniles during the Kalahari austral dry season in July and August, at a time when most individuals of northern populations have followed the rains into the Sahel (10–16°N). However, they also include two older, adult or near-adult birds in January and March, when northerly Red-necked Buzzards have moved south to breed. The southern African birds may thus have originated from these, or from the nearby populations inhabiting the central African forests and woodlands.

Irrespective of their origin, now that the attention of observers has been drawn to the hitherto unsuspected presence of Red-necked Buzzards in southern Africa, future observations should reveal whether the species regularly disperses to the Kalahari Basin and the seasonality, if any, of these movements.

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